

R&D Projects of VRDE

1084. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation carrying out R&D activities on wheeled and tracked vehicles primarily for the Army has completed 19 projects after spending crores of rupees in the last decade;

(b) whether only four of the projects went finally into bulk production and led to a heavy sum of wasteful expenditure; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. VRDE has completed 18 projects successfully for the Army during 1988—1998, which involved an outlay of Rs. 9.72 Crore.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Expenditure on R&D projects is not considered wasteful as all technologies developed and experience gained are utilized in future programmes. VRDE has completed all 18 projects while 4 went into bulk production during 1988—1998, the fifth one namely, 'Operation Theatre (OT) complex on wheels' was productionised in the year 2000 and yet another one, namely kitchen lorry is under process of productionisation. However R&D projects go in for production based on objectives of the project and users' immediate and futuristic requirements.

Change in Uniform of Lady Officers of MNS

1085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lady officers of Military Nursing Services have requested not to implement the proposal of change in uniform from present olive green trousers and shirts to a knee-length coat and trousers;

(b) if so, the reasons which compelled Government to bring changes in the present uniform of MNS; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit lady army officers of MNS to wear a garment as inner wear beneath their coats?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Nursing Officers have represented against the order for change in uniform from the present olive green trousers and shirts to Nursing officers coat and trousers to be worn in patient care areas.

(b) Reasons which compelled Army Headquarters to change the uniform was 'poor acceptance by the patients, relatives of the patients and Commanders of the three Services at various levels regarding wearing of olive green uniform by Nurses working in patient care areas'.

(c) Yes, Sir. MNS officers have been allowed to wear inner which could also be a white terricot shirt without shoulder straps, provided no part of the shirt is visible when the Nursing officers coat is worn by the concerned Nursing officer.

Capture of military bunkers by terrorists

†1086. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists have captured those military bunkers which were prepared by the military for the use in emergency at the time of war;

(b) if so, when and how terrorists have captured the bunkers; and

(c) if not, the factual position alongwith the reaction of Government on the news published in Hindustan dated 5.9.2001?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Our troops are in occupation of all forward bunkers along the Line of Control.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.